



California Public Utilities Commission

505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102

Commissioner Statement

Media Contact: Terrie Prosper, 415.703.1366, news@cpuc.ca.gov

PUC COMMISSIONER CHONG COMMENTS ON GOVERNOR'S BROADBAND EXECUTIVE ORDER

SAN FRANCISCO, October 27, 2006 – Following is a statement from Commissioner Rachelle Chong, of the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC), regarding Governor Schwarzenegger's Executive Order, signed today, designed to pave the way for building broadband networks:

"Last year, the PUC's Broadband Deployment in California Report called for the creation of a broadband task force, more advanced communication services for government operations and public access, and limiting rights-of-way fees assessed upon broadband providers. I am grateful that Governor Schwarzenegger has swiftly responded with this far-reaching broadband Executive Order today.

A key provision is the statewide effort to streamline right-of-way permitting for broadband providers' applications. This provision will result in faster build-outs of advanced broadband networks, which in turn will bring applications like tele-education and tele-medicine to all Californians, particularly those in rural, inner city, and low-income areas. The Executive Order will encourage broadband providers to come to California, will promote competition, and thus lower prices for broadband consumers. The Executive Order also will help safeguard Californians if emergency communications systems are necessary."

The Governor's press release on this issue is available at: <http://gov.ca.gov/index.php?/press-release/4575/>.

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